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AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523

March 1, 1989

TO: See Distribution

FROM: ANE/AF, Gary Mansavage

SUBJECT: Afghanistan--Scenario Building

PRN-4

Scenario
Building

We have asked to meet with you Thursday, March 2, at 1:00 p.m. in Ray Love's office to discuss the status of the scenario-building exercise.

A computer model has been developed which takes into account Afghan wheat production, commercial wheat sales from Pakistan, and wheat supplies from the USSR. This food supply information has been related to food needs for two very different estimates of the population living in Afghanistan and to the refugee population at different rates of return. We also have a computer model which provides data on fuel requirements at different rates of delivery and relates this to the price of fuel from Kuwait delivered to Kabul. We would like to discuss these models (see attachments) and explore what other program needs might be run through the computer.

Two very different population estimates are being used for the 1988 population living in Afghanistan. The O/AID/REP uses a 1988 figure of 10.5 million people. The U.S. Bureau of the Census uses a 1988 estimate of 13 million. (Note that this latter figure is the population estimate that has recently been used in presentations at senior levels of our government).

While no one knows with any degree of certainty what the correct population living in Afghanistan is, at the request of ANE/AF, the Bureau of the Census has recently reviewed their population estimates and has compared their data with the data that O/AID/Rep is using. On the basis of this review, BUCEN officials confirmed on February 28th that they stand by their estimate of 13 million (which now takes into account the some 1.5 million war dead figure used by O/AID/REP), and questions the figure of 10.5 million being used by O/AID/Rep.

Please note that the difference between these two census estimates is an additional 2.5 million people living in Afghanistan in 1988. The rough wheat requirement for this population at 150 Kg of food per year is 375,000 MT. The cost of this wheat delivered to Kabul approximates \$128 million.

We cannot control the delivery of Soviet wheat to Afghanistan. We can, however, factor the availability of Soviet wheat into our planning process and this we have done in the model. However, we do have control over the best population estimate to use for planning purposes for Afghanistan and we need a policy decision: 10.5 million or 13 million.

Attachments: a/s

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